

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2965

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

RUDTCXAMEMBASSY LONDON 8239

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE

SUBJECT: GDR GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON BORDER INCIDENTS

REF: BERLIN 6350

1. THE GDR HAS RESPONDED TO FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S JULY 28
DECLARATION ON RECENT GDR BORDER INCIDENTS WITH A GOVERNMENT
STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KURT NIEW TO
FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GUENTER GAUS IN EAST BERLIN
ON THE SAME DAY. ACCORDING TO ADN REPORTS, THE GDR STATEMENT
LABELED THE SCHMIDT DECLARATION AN ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL THE
TRUE NATURE OF RECENT FRG "BORDER PROVOCATIONS", AND REJECTED
ALLEGED FRG ATTEMPTS TO TREAT THE GDR-FRG BOUNDARY AS
AN "INNER GERMAN BOUNDARY" SIMILAR TO THOSE BETWEEN THE
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FRG "LAENDER". WHILE NOTING THAT THE RECENT BORDER

INCIDENTS HAD "SERIOUSLY BURDENED" GDR-FRG RELATIONS, THE STATEMENT REPEATED THE GDR'S CONTINUED INTENTION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE FRG.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ADN ACCOUNT, NIER ADDED HIS OWN REMARKS TO THE OFFICIAL GDR STATEMENT BY EXPRESSING HIS HOPE THAT THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN THE FRG WOULD NOT CAUSE WEST GERMAN POLITICIANS TO OVERLY STRAIN GDR-FRG RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT: THE GDR STATEMENT AS DELIVERED BY NIER IS HARD-NOSED IN ITS ACCUSATION OF FRG TRANSGRESSIONS ALONG THE GDR BORDER BUT MODERATE IN ITS REAFFIRMATION OF GDR INTEREST IN PROGRESS WITH THE FRG. FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION SOURCES IN EAST BERLIN BELIEVE THE GDR DOES NOT WELCOME ADVERSE PUBLICITY RESULTING FROM RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS SO SOON BEFORE THE UPCOMING UNGA. HOWEVER, THEY SEE THE GDR REACTION AS PART OF A DEVELOPING GDR STRATEGY TO DOCUMENT SUPPOSED FRG VIOLATIONS OF THE GDR BORDER FOR PRESENTATION AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE IN 1977. COOPER

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